Increase in the availability of steel in Gujarat

8438. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the plan to increase the per capita availability of steel at cheaper prices to agricultural and rural sector in Gujarat during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) whether Government propose to ensure that cheaper steel items are available to the people of Saurashtra and Kachh region;

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up distribution centre at Gandhi Dham and Bhavnagar and Rajkot;

(d) whether SAIL has taken any note of the steel items demanded in Saurashtra and Kachh region; and

(e) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Goverment have taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in the country. Modernisation and expansion of Public Sector steel plants has been taken up. Government also have adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage the creation of additional steel production capacities in the Private Sector. Total production of finished steel in 1994-95 has increased by about 11.6%. Import of all items of steel has been freely allowed and Customs duty on import of steel items has also been reduced. These measures will increase the availability of steel for all sectors including rural and agricultural sector in Gujarat. Increased availability is also expected to have a restraining influence on prices of steel. A rebate of Rs. 400/- per tonne is being given on supply of steel materials by main producers to Gujarat Small Industries Corporation against the allocation made by Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel. It makes available steel at comparatively cheaper prices to Small Scale Industries including those in Saurashtra and Kachh region.

(c) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) have its stockyards at Ahmedabad and Baroda from where the supply of steel material are originated to the customers of Gujarat. In addition, SAIL has appointed Gujarat Small Industries Corporation (GSIC) as its authorised distributor at Rajkot since June, 1994. Presently, SAIL have no plan to open any other stockyard or marketing or distribution outlet at Gandhi Dham and Bhavnagar since the requirements of the steel materials of various customers of the State are being catered through the above mentioned distribution outlets.

(d) and (e) SAIL has taken note of the demand projected by the customers in Gujarat State, including those located in Saurashtra and Kachh region. The supplies of steel are being made to such customers against the bookings made by the respective customers as per the marketing policy of SAIL.

During 1994-95, SAIL through its Branch Sales Offices located at Ahmedabad and Baroda has supplied around 4.05 lakh tonnes of steel materials through stockyards as well as on direct despatch basis to the customers in the State of Gujarat. The supplies during 1994-95 to the

Gujarat State were around 11.6% more than the previous year. In addition, during 1994-95 around 5,500 tonnes of steel has been supplied through the authorised distributor at Rajkot.

Performance of SAIL

8439. SHRI J. S. RAJU:

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL has improved its performance during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) if so, the target set up by SAIL for the production of Steel during 1995-96; and

(c) the steps taken by SAIL to improve further performance and to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE O. THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The saleable steel production at SAIL integrated plants during the years, 1993-94 and 1994-95 showed a growth of 4% over the prevous years.

(b) Production target of saleable steel for the five integrated SAIL steel plants (including IISCO) during 1995-96 is 9.255 Million Tonnes. The production target of SAIL plants (including special steel units but excluding subsidiaries) is 9.1 Million Tonnes.

(c) Steps taken by SAIL to further increase the production of saleable steel include:

— modernisation and technological upgradation of plants;

— improving the quality of inputs;

— better deployment and maintenance of equipment;

— improving inter plant synergy by transfer of inprocess material for value addition; and

— augmentation of power generation to reduce dependence on the grid.

Functioning of new steel plants in the country

8440. SHRI J. S. RAJU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) how many new steel plants have come to function in various States of the country during the last three years; and

(b) how many of them are public enterprises and how many of them are private?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Under the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991 Iron & Steel Industry has been removed from the list of industries reserved for public sector and has also been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing, except for certain locational restrictions. No Industrial Licence is, therefore, required to set up a steel plant. However, as per available information, during the last three years 1992-93 to 1994-95, excluding the induction furnace sector, seven new steel plants based on the electric arc furnace route of steel making have been commissioned/partly commissioned in different States. These plants are in the private sector.